

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 06035 090835Z
ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01
OMB-01 AID-05 USIA-06 PC-01 DODE-00 AGRE-00
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R 081320Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2293

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 6035

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AODE
SUBJECT: EVALUATION BY CHIEF OF MISSION OF PERSONNEL
LEVELS

REF: STATE 201122

1. OTHER AGENCY REPRESENTATION HERE IS LIMITED TO (1) A
MAJOR USIS PROGRAM, (2) A DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE AND (3)
AN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE.

2. USIS AMERICAN STAFFING HAS REMAINED STABLE OVER THE PAST
FIVE YEARS DESPITE ESTABLISHMENT OF BRANCH CENTERS IN FOUR
PROVINCIAL CITIES, WHILE LOCAL POSITIONS HAVE DECREASED
DURING THAT PERIOD. IF CURRENT TRENDS PERSIST, I FORESEE
EXPANDED USIS PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE.
COORDINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FUNCTIONS NOW BEING
UNDERTAKEN BY THE EMBASSY MAY JUSTIFY SOME FURTHER DECREASE IN
LOCAL EMPLOYEE STAFFING. HOWEVER, I CONSIDER AMERICAN STAFFING
APPROPRIATE TO THE PROGRAM'S PRIORITY IN MISSION OBJECTIVES,
AND RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY REDUCTION.

3. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IS STAFFED BY THREE OFFICERS,
SIX AMERICAN SUPPORT PERSONNEL, AND THREE LOCAL DRIVERS.

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POSSIBLE FUTURE EXPANSION OF MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS
WOULD INCREASE DAO'S LIAISON FUNCTION. SHORT OF THIS, I
CANNOT- ON THE BASIS OF ONLY TWO MONTHS HERE-WITH CONFIDENCE
WEIGH THE VALUE OF THE ATTACHES' CURRENT ACTIVITIES AGAINST
EMBASSY OR WASHINGTON PRIORITIES. WITH COORDINATED
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT IN THE EMBASSY, I SUSPECT THAT THE
DAO COULD PROBABLY OPERATE WITH FEWER THAN SIX AMERICAN

NON-COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL AND THREE DRIVERS. HOWEVER, PENDING DECISIONS ON THE FUTURE OF MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS, I HAVE NO RECOMMENDATIONS ON STAFFING CHANGES IN THAT OFFICE.

4. THE EMBASSY AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE COVERS HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WITH MINIMAL SECRETARIAL AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE SUPPORT. GIVEN THE HISTORIC AND CURENT LEVEL OF TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, I CONSIDER THAT OFFICE ESSENTIAL TO EMBASSY OPERATIONS AT ITS CURRENT BASIC LEVEL.

5. GIVEN MY PERSONAL CONCERN FOR EFFECTIVE USE OF EMBASSY RESOURCES IN MEETING MISSION OBJECTIVES, I HAVE ALREADY SET IN TRAIN COORDINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES. AFTER SO SHORT A TIME IN BELGRADE, I AM NOT PREPARED TO COME TO JUDGMENT ON OTHER POSSIBLE STAFFING OR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES. HOWEVER, I WILL BE LOOKING INTO THE QUESTION CONTINUALLY IN THE FUTURE.
EAGLEBURGER

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